THE DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname.** Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca.

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NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NSLA) CONFERENCE

Hosted by Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, the 1998 NSLA Annual Conference was held September 25th to 27th at the Pictou Lodge, overlooking the Northumberland Strait. The theme was "Rural Library Services for the 21st century". The keynote speaker was Jim Lotz, author of 18 books, many of which relate to community development. He spoke on the origins of the regional library system in Nova Scotia and the role of libraries in community economic development. In a Chronicle-Herald interview with Marion Pape, Director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Jim Lotz and NSLA President, Sarah Hainsworth, Mr. Lotz said that if libraries wanted to raise money for new projects, one solution worth considering would be to establish a library foundation which could issue tax receipts for donations. Ms. Hainsworth agreed that this idea was worth considering.

About 66 staff members from the nine regional public libraries attended the conference. Many thanks to the hosts of the 1998 conference, for the interesting workshops from "Exploring Nova Scotia genealogy" to "Making CAP (Community Access Projects) work in Rural Libraries - Tour of the River John CAP Site". The lovely drawing here is courtesy of James Stackhouse of Saint John, New Brunswick, who created it especially for the programme cover. Looking forward to next year's conference at the Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, Kings County, October 2 - 4, 1999! For those of you who would like to hear Jim Lotz speak about community development, he will be launching his new book, The Lichen Factor, at The Book Room on November 5th, 4-6 pm. For more information, contact the bookstore at 423-8271.

PUGWASH LAUNCH

The Pugwash Library, one of the seven branches of the Cumberland Regional Library, celebrated ten years of library service to its area patrons on October 16th. This celebration was used as an opportunity to launch the Web NcompasS and the on-line reference databases. The program

of activities included Lloyd Gillis, Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, as the keynote speaker and several other regional and local politicians as well as awards to young library users who have created birthday greetings for the library. Mr. Gillis spoke nostalgically about his early years growing up in Pugwash and living close to the train station, which is now converted to a public library.

With the launch of Web NcompasS library users will be able to search for library materials by using their home computer. To print full-text journal articles on topics of interest or research the library, the patron just has to log into the online reference databases at their local library. They can print information there and then, or email the results to their home computer for printing later. Pictured here is the Pugwash Library. A news release on the Pugwash Launch and a Background page are available on the Nova Scotia Provincial Library homepage at http://www.library.ns.ca/whatsnew.html. For more information about the Pugwash Library, visit the homepage at http://www.library.ns.ca/regionals/cur/pugwash/.

LIBRARY PUBLIC AWARENESS VIDEO GROUP

The Video Group is a sub group of the Library Public Awareness Committee, and includes Leanne Marchand (HRL), Wendy Robichaud (CEHL), Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin (WCRL), Betty Thomas (LBANS representative), Carole Compton-Smith (NSPL) and the assistance of Ray Whitley, Production Manager for Learning Resources and Technology. The production plan for the video is in place and now begins the task, for the production crew, of travelling around the province to get the library stories on videotape. The first series of videotaping begins the week of October 19th at the libraries in Dartmouth and Truro. The production team then moves to Yarmouth and will finish videotaping in Cape Breton.

TWO NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY PROJECTS

Behind The Scenes

Internet Training Handbook

Craig Cormier has returned to the Provincial Library to continue the development of the successful Internet Training Handbook. The project involves the writing and development of two new modules, one for Web NcompasS and one for the online reference databases. The modules will also include resources such as instructions on how to plan a workshop, generic scripts for the training sessions, exercises, and evaluation forms.

User Services Online Reference Database

Funding has recently been secured for the creation of a searchable database containing the many reference questions that have been answered by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library's User Services staff. Each month the Provincial Library fields approximately 100 reference questions from librarians across the province, with the more significant inquiries recorded for future consultation. Michael Vandenburg will develop the accessibility to this knowledge bank. Upon completion, the database will be posted on the Nova Scotia Provincial Library homepage.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY REFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is offering a series of workshops aimed at providing regional public library staff with information about common topics which crop up every day at the reference desk. For 1998/99, the series includes five workshop topics:

- Virtual Collection Development (evaluating WWW sites)
- Legal Resources (print and Web resources on the law, especially in Nova Scotia)
- Tourism/ Recreation (tourism and recreation print and Web resources for the Atlantic Provinces)
- Statistics Canada (how to use Statistics Canada print and Web resources)
- Introduction to HTML Composition (basic HTML codes and creation of a web page using Microsoft FrontPage software)

Staff in the User Services Section of the Provincial Library will be coducting twenty-one workshops between October 1998 and June 1999. Some of these workshops will be hosted by particular regional libraries, and others will be held in-house at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

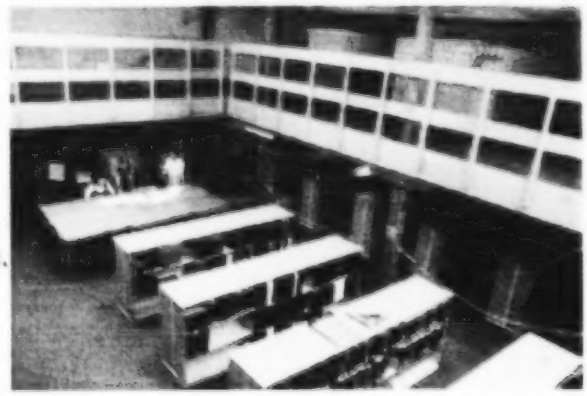
WORD ON THE STREET EVENT

On Sunday, September 27, on a pedestrian-only Spring Garden Road, Halifax celebrated literacy and reading by hosting its 3rd Annual *Word on the Street*. For the second year, the Halifax Regional Library generously allowed the Nova Scotia Provincial Library to share its booth. Arlene Watts, Special Services Library Assistant, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, represented the nine Regional Public Libraries' province wide Summer Reading Program.

A variety of the Summer Reading Program's promotional items, e.g. shirts, mousepads, posters, were for sale. Although the weather was soggy, the event still had a carnival-like atmosphere and provided an opportunity to raise the awareness for the Reading Program. Arlene was assisted with handouts by her niece and nephew, Lauren and Aaron Wilson. Aaron, aged 10, is wearing a Summer Reading Program sweatshirt in this photo, and appears alongside Stephen Franck, a Halifax Regional Library staff member.

MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC LIBRARY

The Library of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is a research facility which serves both museum staff and the general public. The collection includes over 5,000 book titles relating to merchant ships and shipping, navigation, seamanship, shipwrecks, the Navy and many other maritime subject areas. The primary focus is on Nova Scotian maritime history, but since Nova Scotia's ships travelled the world, the collection is international in scope. Published sources include shipping registers from the late 1700s to date; guides to navigation; pamphlets; current periodicals, including several on model building; newsletters; and historical periodical titles. The Library also houses the Museum's large collection of more than 20,000 photographs, as well as a collection of vessel plans and navigational charts. *Please note that the Library does not have immigration records or passenger lists.*



Materials are available for consultation in the Library only, although some items can be made available through interlibrary loan. The Librarian is Marged Dewar, and the Library Assistant is Angie Lessard. The library is housed in a beautiful space, shown here. Library hours are 10 am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday and at other times by special arrangement. To ensure the best service, patrons might want to call ahead. You can contact the library staff at 424-7890 or email mmalibry@gov.ns.ca .

HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE MODELS

The Halifax Regional Library is in the process of developing **Service Models** for the public services. As part of this project, each branch has identified five **service priorities.** These priorities were developed through the participation of branch staff who were asked to name the five most important services their communities wanted from their branches, such as the Alderney Gate Branch Library, shown here. Branch managers and senior staff then refined the results using branch profile information and through consultation with the public services managers. This first version of service priorities is really the result of an internal scan.

The next step is a customer survey to further refine the results. The priorities will be reviewed annually and provide a mechanism for branches and the region to ensure that existing resources are focused on services most important to the public. The process is similar to that outlined in the new American Library Association publication, **Planning for Results.**

A second phase of the service model project is designing a mechanism for equitable staff allocation and staffing models across the region. The first results of this phase will be complete this fall. For more information, please call Susan Mclean, Director of Public Services at 490-5898, or E-mail at smclean@nsh.library.ns.ca .

UPDATE ON THE GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION (GLF)

Marion Pape, Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian, attended the official launch of the Canadian program of the GLF in Montreal on October 1st. The Gates Library Foundation (GLF) is dedicated to partnering with public libraries to bring access to computers, the Internet, and digital information for patrons in low-income communities. It was founded by Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft Corporation, shown here. Working with a province-wide steering committee representing regional public libraries and library associations in Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) will coordinate the development of a province-wide application based on the needs of the province. The GLF is working with members of the following library organizations: Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), the Canadian Library Association (CLA), the Canadian Association of Public Libraries (CAPL), the Chief Administrators of Large Urban Public Libraries (CALUPL), Industry Canada, Provincial & Territorial Library Directors Council (PTLDC), and Statistics Canada.

There was also a discussion on eligibility and poverty levels as the essential criteria for GLF support. However, there is not a universally accepted definition of poverty levels across Canada.

Consequently the planning community has decided to use low-income cut-off levels determined by Statistics Canada with the threshold of 17.6% as the poverty line for determining the eligibility of individual branch libraries. Preliminary data confirms that approximately 40% of Nova Scotia rural libraries and the majority of urban libraries will qualify for the first wave of funding using the 17.6% threshold. Libraries that meet the identified Canadian poverty threshold must be able to provide direct access for the patrons to the Internet and the computers provided by the Foundation.

Through the Grant Program, the Foundation will fund all eligible public library buildings serving low-income communities to purchase computer and networking equipment and to install telecommunications for Internet access. The Foundation also provides training and technical support to selected staff designated by the provincial or territorial library agencies. This training includes network administration, computer and Internet applications, computer systems management, and train-the-trainer models for application in on-going staff and patron training classes. Most of the software that will come pre-loaded on the computers is available in French. At the individual library's request, the French language version of software will be pre-loaded.

A revised application form will be available shortly for use in completing the Nova Scotia proposal for submission to the GLF to fund reference express terminals in all public libraries across the province. The use of these terminals would be primarily for quick research questions that people can utilize to find facts on community and other types of information.

ANN CONNOR BRIMER AWARD

Established by the Nova Scotia Library Association in 1990, the Ann Connor Brimer Award recognizes Atlantic Canadian writers who have made an outstanding contribution to children's literature. The $1,000 Ann Connor Brimer Award will be presented during a reception at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Friday, November 6th, from 4 - 6 pm. The 8th annual Award shortlisted titles include: The House of the Wooden Santas (front cover shown here) by Kevin Major, Sharla by Budge Wilson, Animal Senses by Pamela Hickman and Stranger at Bay by Don Aker. For more information, contact Heather MacKenzie at 490-5822 or email mahm1@nsh.library.ns.ca

LINKed

In anticipation of the coming holidays, this month's Internet sites focus on the various holidays, festivals and special events throughout the year. These were some of the best found:

Heather's Holidaze at http://www.heathersholidaze.com/index.html is an award winning site which was created by an 8 year old girl with the help of her parents. It covers all the major holidays with things to do, gift ideas, coloring pages and information on the history

of the holidays. It is a busy site and audio capability is needed.

Berit's Best Sites For Children at http://db.cochran.com/li_toc:theoPage.db is a directory of sites maintained by Berit Erickson, a librarian, as part of **Cochran Entertainment's Theodore Tugboat Online Activity Centre** at http://www.cochran.com/theodore/. The sites are recommended for children up to age 12, and there is a section on major holidays with links to sites. Each site is given a rating out of five and a brief review.

Festivals.com at http://www.festivals.com is a well organized site which was created by Ryan-Shanklin, Ltd., a Seattle company. It is an on-line resource for festivals and events which lists over 22,000 festivals worldwide. There are features on holidays, celebratory traditions and the "Event of the Day". The festival directory can be searched by date, location, event name/keyword or by clicking on a map. There is also how-to information for festival organizers and reviews of festival-related books.

Holidays on the Net at http://www.holidays.net/ is a production of Studio Melizo, a web design company. This site has received many website awards. Individual holiday sites are very colorful and attractive and there is information on the traditions and history of each holiday. Multimedia capability is needed to get full enjoyment of some sites.

Uncle Debi's Holidays at http://home.wnm.net/~debi/holidays.htm is a wonderful site with fun materials for all occasions. The owner of the site is actually a woman named Debi Kennedy. There is clipart for all occasions, calendar wallpaper, electronic greeting cards, crafts, recipes, games and links to sites with information on holiday traditions and stories. Multimedia capability is required for some activities.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Below are two recent reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the regional public libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet

Q. Looking for the Email address for the Interlibrary Loan Department of the Edmonton Public Library.

A. The electronic equivalent to the National Library's print directory Symbols and Interlibrary Loan Policies in Canada is available for searching on **The National Library of Canada** homepage at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ehome.htm - find "Services" and then click on "For Libraries". Then click on "Interlibrary Loans (ILL)" and on this page you will see "ILL Directory on the Web" which will take you to the search screen where you can enter (for example) "Edmonton public library" in the library name search box. The entry for this library is then shown, including the email address which is ill@publib.edmonton.ab.ca. Bookmark the page of the **ILL Directory on the Web** at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ill/eabtdrty.htm.

Q. Patron would like Celtic music for a beginning guitar player.

A. The keywords "Celtic music guitar" were entered at the Savvy search engine page at http://www.cs.colostate.edu/~dreiling/smartform.html and two sites which have discographies of Celtic Finger style Guitar

Music and listings of Celtic Guitar Books were retrieved, as well as useful information on Celtic guitar music history and tips on playing. These sites are:**Celtic Finger style Guitar** page at http://www.win.net/~mainstring/celtic.html and **Celtic/ British Isles Music For Finger Style Guitar** at http://www.sover.net/~arte/celtic.html.

PROFESSIONAL READING

Here are reviews of two Neal-Schuman books to be added to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library collection, plus a magazine from British Columbia focussing on public library news clipping. One of the books belongs to the well known *How -to-Do-It* series published by Neal-Schuman. There are a number of these manuals in our collection and they are in heavy demand by our users. These items are available on interlibrary loan from the professional collection.

Bleiweis, Maxine. **Helping Business: the Library ' s Role in Community Economic Development: a How-To-Do-It manual.** New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1997. (Call # Prof 027 .69 Ble).
The main theme of this book is that public libraries are under-utilized business resources which can remedy their problem by building relationships with local businesses. The author attempts to show librarians how to identify the information needs and then how to actively market their library services to the business community.

Kovacs, Michael and Kovacs, Diane. **The Cybrarians Guide for Developing Successful Internet Programs and Services.** New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1997. (Call # Prof 025 .04 Kov).
This guide is written for librarians who are already familiar with the Internet as advanced end users. This book is intended to prepare the reader to use the Internet as a publication and information dissemination tool and to become an Internet information producer and / or provider. It is organized into six chapters, followed by detailed appendices and case studies.

B.C. Public Libraries in the News. Victoria: BC: Library Services Branch. 8 issues per year.
This periodical reproduces a selection of recent news clippings on and about libraries, library programs and library services from daily and community newspapers published throughout British Columbia.